

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MAY 10, 2017

Mayor Whitus called to order the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia.

Present at the meeting were Mayor D.E. Whitus, presiding and Council members D.E. Dwyer, D. L. Hunter, S.B. Thompson, T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, J.J. Davis and G.C. Cole.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Gary Elder; Chief of Police, Andy Ellington; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Director of Public Works, Robin Atkins; Town Planner, Cindy Morris; Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko; Communications Specialist, Kate Eggleston and Administrative Assistant, Jackie Vaughan.

Mayor Whitus welcomed guests and led the invocation and Mr. Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hricko called the roll for Council, noting all members were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. John Burton, Program Manager for Downtown Farmville Partnership, addressed Council-updating members on various items. Mentioned were:

- The Downtown Champion Thank You Event – the event is a time to celebrate the Partnership’s biggest supporters and in honor of their five year anniversary. He stated that during that time, the Partnership has done a lot to increase the vibrancy and excitement of downtown and he looks forward to continuing the mission. Members received a flyer outlining some of the Partnership’s specific accomplishments for 2016.
- Update on two of the Soup projects - the creation of the community herb garden is growing strong at the Farmer’s Market and the student artist mural project has begun downtown. The 1st of these murals *The Greetings from Farmville* postcard mural is located on the J. Ferguson Gallery building, facing Walker’s Diner. The mural represents the spirit of life downtown and features many local landmarks.
- Mr. Barton expressed appreciation for the support that the Town gives to the Downtown Farmville Partnership organization.

Ms. Jen Cox, Director of Local and Community Relations for Longwood University, addressed Council, updating members on various upcoming community events. Mentioned were:

- Update on the Big South Softball Tournament being hosted at Longwood. Ms. Cox spoke briefly on some of the planned events.
- Longwood graduation has been moved to the third Saturday in May. Graduation will be held on May 20th, at 9:30 a.m. on Willet lawn.
- Longwood will be hosting their first Mega Reunion, June 2 – 4, 2017. Currently over 500 alumni have signed up and Longwood is expecting that number to increase. Ms. Cox stated because Longwood’s reunion weekend is the same weekend as Hampden –Sydney College, they have collaborated with Hampden-Sydney on signs that have both seals to help businesses not clutter their windows.

Mr. Adam Yoelin, a town resident that lives in the area of the intersection of High and Oak Street addressed Council regarding the intersection of High, Oak and Griffin. He asked Council to consider the cost of a roundabout versus the cost of the intersection. He provided Council with statistical information, which he stated, supported a roundabout.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and with all Council members voting “aye”, the consent agenda was approved as submitted. The consent agenda includes the draft minutes of the April 5, 2017 regular work session meeting and the draft minutes of the regular April 12, 2017 Council meeting.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented was approved.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PAY THE BILLS

On motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to authorize the Town Treasurer to pay the bills as submitted was approved.

VACANCY ON THE LOCAL BUILDING OFFICIAL BOARD

This matter was continued pending the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

BACKGROUND: The vacancy is to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Southard Brumfield, who was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals and is no longer eligible to serve on the Local Building Official Board. Mr. Brumfield’s term on the Local Building Official Board expires on May 31, 2018.

VACANCY ON THE FARMVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

This matter was continued pending the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

BACKGROUND: The vacancy is to fill the remaining term of Mrs. Elizabeth Ragland, whom submitted her letter of resignation in February. Mrs. Ragland’s term on the Authority expires on February 28, 2018.

VACANCY OF TOWN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

This matter was continued pending the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Lowell Frye, Farmville’s representative on the Library Board will be stepping down on June 30, 2017, after serving for two (2) four years terms. Board members are only permitted to serve for two terms.

REQUEST TO AMEND THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to amend the Town of Farmville Employee Handbook, adding a policy for employees that are not on-call and are called-in to respond to emergency situations receive travel compensation.

BACKGROUND: The Finance and Ordinance Committee recommended a policy be added to the Town of Farmville Employee Handbook compensating employees that off and not on-call and are called-in to respond to emergencies. The Committee recommended an employee be compensated beginning from when the employee receives the call, to when the employee returns home, with a two hour minimum compensation.

REQUEST TO AMEND FARMVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION ORDINANCE NO. 183 CHAPTER 20 PLANNING, SECTION 28-28 MEMBERS-APPOINTMENT

On motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to accept the recommendation of the Finance and Ordinance Committee and adopt

Ordinance No. 183, amending Chapter 20 Planning, Section 20-28 Members-Appointment was approved.

BACKGROUND: At the March 8, 2017 Council meeting, Council accepted the recommendation of the Finance and Ordinance Committee and agreed that the Farmville Planning Commission should mirror Council, with representation from each Ward and two (2) At-Large members. Mr. Spates stated the public hearing was held this evening and no one wished to address Council.

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 182 – TO EXTEND THE REBATES ON NEW RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WATER AND/OR SEWER CONNECTIONS WITHIN CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE

On motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to accept the recommendation of the Finance and Ordinance Committee and authorize advertisement of a public hearing on Ordinance No. 182 – to extend the rebates on new residential and commercial water and/or sewer connections within the corporate limits of the Town of Farmville was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated Ordinance #178 provides a discount on new residential and commercial water and/or sewer connections within the corporate limits of the Town of Farmville and expires on June 30, 2017. The Finance and Ordinance Committee met and discussed the community’s economic growth mentioning the three new hotels and the restaurants at the Hotel Weyanoke. The Committee agreed to recommend Council extend the connection discounts until June 30, 2018 and revisit the matter prior to June 30, 2018.

REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT ON BEHALF OF MARK AND LAURA FRENCH

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid and Cole voting “aye”, and Council member Davis “abstaining”, the motion to accept the recommendation of the Farmville Planning Commission and grant the request for a conditional use permit on behalf of Mark and Laura French to build nine (9) cottages on 1.052 acres, fronting 1st Street and bound by N. Virginia and N. Bridge Street, with no conditions, was approved. Mr. Davis “abstained” noting possible

conflict of interest because his business provided a cost estimate on the flooring for the proposed units.

BACKGROUND: The property is zoned Residential District R-4 and cottages would be considered an allowed use with a conditional use permit. Mr. Spates stated the Farmville Planning Commission held a public hearing and meeting on April 26th, and has recommended Town Council grant the request for a conditional use permit with no conditions. Council held a public hearing this evening and no one present committed on the matter.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 183 – ALLOW OPEN BURNING IN CERTAIN AREAS OF TOWN WITH A PERMIT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with all Council members voting “aye”, the amended motion to authorize advertisement of a public hearing on Ordinance No. 183 allowing open burning, specific restriction, within the corporate limits of the Town, with a permit issued from the Fire Department was approved.

The motion to allow opening burning within the Town limits as specified by the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department was amended to authorize advertisement of the proposed ordinance. During discussions, it was noted that a public hearing would be needed to amend the Town’s burn ordinance.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates advised Council that he had a request by the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department to consider allowing open burning within the corporate limits, under specific conditions. He added that he too had received several inquiries asking the Town to permit open burning. Mr. Spates stated the proposed ordinance is similar to that of Chesterfield County and it prohibits opening burning within 300 yards of an existing dwelling. Mr. Spates is recommending Council consider allowing opening burning for one year and then evaluate the results.

TOWN MANAGER’S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

This matter was referred to the Personnel Committee.

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2017-2018 TOWN BUDGET

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to

authorize advertisement of a public hearing on the proposed 2017 – 2018 Town budget, as recommended by the Finance and Ordinance Committee was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Davis, Chairman of the Finance and Ordinance Committee stated the Committee has finalized their recommendations on the 2017-2018 Town budget. Mr. Davis informed Council that the proposed budget includes the request on behalf of the Central Virginia Regional Library for an annual increase in the library’s appropriation of \$1,500 funding. He stated the proposed budget also includes an appropriation of \$60,000 for the Farmville Downtown Partnership.

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council voting “aye”, the motion to authorize advertisement for candidates interested in serving as Assistant Town Manager was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Davis stated the proposed 2017-2018 Town budget includes the position of Assistant Town Manager, as recommended by Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation, Chairman Cole – Mr. Cole stated the recreation study is in full swing. Surveys have been mailed out to several household seeking in-put on the Town’s recreational needs. Surveys are also available on the Town’s website.

Finance and Ordinance Committee, Chairman Davis – nothing to add

Personnel Committee, Chairman Reid – nothing to add

Infrastructure Committee, Chairman Pairet – Mr. Pairet stated the Infrastructure Committee discussed the request on the behalf of Mr. Richard Bratcher to purchase a lot on the unopened portion of 3rd Avenue, owned by the Town of Farmville and for the abandonment of a portion of Barrow Street between 4th Avenue, Ext. and an unopened portion of 3rd Avenue. Mr. Pairet stated the Committee discussed the possibility of selling the lot and the details of the abandonment of the street right of way, which will include an easement for the Town to access utilities, if the abandonment is approved. He stated the Infrastructure Committee recommends moving forward with advertising a public hearing on the abandonment of the street right of way and on the sale of the vacant lot.

In addition, Mr. Pairet reported that the Infrastructure Committee reviewed the information and bids on the FERN project. With bids being more expensive than anticipated, the Committee is recommending that Council abandon the project and revisit it at a later time.

REQUEST TO ABANDON AN UNOPENED STREET RIGHT OF WAY AND TO PURCHASE A PARCEL

On motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Davis and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to accept the recommendation of the Infrastructure Committee and advertise a public hearing on the request on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bratcher and Mr. and Mrs. de Jonge to abandon a portion of Barrow Street between 4th Avenue, Ext. and an unopened portion of 3rd Avenue and for Mr. and Mrs. Bratcher to purchase a piece of property owned by the Town of Farmville, located on the unopened portion of 3rd Avenue, was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Richard Bratcher, property owner of 900 4th Avenue, Ext., submitted a request to Council, to abandon a street right of way and the possible purchase of a lot owned by the Town of Farmville, located on 3rd Avenue. Mr. Pairet stated the Infrastructure Committee met and discussed the details of the abandonment of the street right of way, with the possibility of an easement to access the Town’s utilities along with the possibility of selling the property. Mr. Pairet stated Mr. Bratcher has agreed to take care of the easement on the street right of way.

REQUEST COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ABANDONING FERN PROJECT

On motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to accept the recommendation of the Infrastructure Committee to abandon the FERN project and remove the FERN project from the 2017 – 2018 proposed Town budget and revisit in a year, was approved.

BACKGROUND: The Infrastructure Committee, at their recent meeting, reviewed the information and bids on FERN project. With bids being more expensive than anticipated, the Committee is recommending that Council abandon the project and revisit it at a later time.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED-

Town Property/Building Committee, Chairman Thompson – nothing to report

Public Safety, Chairman Hunter – nothing to report

FERN Committee, Chairman Dwyer – nothing to report

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- The Jackson Height water tank will be off line in June for approximately three weeks for routine maintenance (sandblasting and painting).
- The wording for the Barbara Johns plaque has been completed and will be available for Council to review.
- McCormick Taylor, the engineering firm evaluating the intersection of High, Oak and Griffin will be presenting their report at the community meeting scheduled for Monday, May 31st, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber.
- Street paving list will be available next month, along with the estimated cost.

VDOT Revenue Sharing funds – Vernon Street from Main to Putney, Catlin Street, Longwood Avenue, section of North Main

VDOT State of Good Report (if funding is approved) South Main from Clark Street to Williams Street, section of East Third Street and a section of West Third Street

PURCHASE WELCOME TO FARMVILLE SIGNAGE

On a motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter, the motion to purchase several Welcome to Farmville signs with the Longwood Elwood mascot and the Hampden-Sydney Tiger mascots was approved. The decorative signs are to be 24x30 in size and be displayed at the Town’s entrances, High Street and one on Longwood’s campus and one on the campus of Hampden-Sydney College.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated while on a recent trip to Danville, VA he noticed their “Welcome to Danville, Virginia” signs and directed Harvey Design Landscaping to workup unique welcome sign designs for Farmville. He then presented a power point presentation on the entry designs. Members discussed the designs and after taking a “stray vote” a motion was made followed by a vote and the Welcome to Farmville, Virginia sign with Longwood University’s mascot and the Hampden-Sydney College mascot was approved

TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

Chief Ellington stated the Farmville Police Department would be receiving the Re-accreditation certificate tomorrow, May 11. He then provided Council will a brief overview of the various community outreach programs the Department has been participating in.

Mayor Whitus commented on the exceptional job that the Public Works Department and Police Department did with setting up and taking down of the Heart of Virginia Festival this year.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cole inquired about the current traffic flow commercial trucks on Perry Drive. Chief Ellington gave a brief update. Mrs. Lucy Zehner, a resident that lives on Perry Drive, stated that she has seen a slight decrease in traffic.

CLOSED SESSION – REAL PROPERTY AND LEGAL CONSULTATION FOR PROBABLE LITIGATION

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council went into closed session under **Section 2.2-3711.A.3 of the Code of Virginia**, for discussion or consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body and **Section 2.2-3711.A.7 of the Code of Virginia** for the briefing by staff members and legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Town of Farmville.

Mayor Whitus called for a five (5) minute recess. Council reconvened in closed session.

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council returned to the regular order of business.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Farmville Town Council has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Farmville Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Farmville Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Farmville Town Council.

VOTE: Five (5)

MOTION: Davis

SECOND: Cole

AYES: Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk